

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
U.S. APPLN. NO. 10/000,065  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q67493

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

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1. (*Currently Amended*) A trapping area creating method comprising:

~~a division step of dividing an image represented in form of a combination of polygons to which colors are applied[[,]] into a plurality of image areas by a straight line passing through vertexes of the polygons;~~

~~determining if a decision step of deciding a propriety of trapping should be applied to for each pair of image areas adjacent to one another in at least one direction of two predetermined two-directions, with respect to the plurality of image areas wherein the image is divided; and~~


~~a trapping area creating step of creating a band-shaped trapping area extending along a boundary of two image areas comprising ~~constituting~~ a pair of image areas determined ~~decided~~ as being suitable for a-trapping-in said decision step.~~

2. (*Currently Amended*) A trapping area creating method according to claim 1 ~~claim1~~, wherein said dividing ~~division step~~ divides the image uses ~~using, as said straight line~~, straight lines extending in same directions as said two predetermined ~~two-directions~~ passing through the vertexes of the polygon, and sides of the polygon.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
U.S. APPLN. NO. 10/000,065  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q67493

3. (*Currently Amended*) A trapping area creating method according to claim 1 ~~claim 1~~, wherein said determination uses decision step ~~adopts~~, as said two predetermined ~~two~~ directions, an upper and lower direction and a right and left direction of the image.

4. (*Currently Amended*) A trapping area creating method according to claim 1 ~~claim 1~~, wherein said determination is based on decision step ~~decides the propriety of trapping in accordance with~~ a difference between colors of two image areas constituting said pair of image areas.

 5. (*Currently Amended*) A trapping area creating method according to claim 1 ~~claim 1~~, wherein creation of said trapping area ~~creating step~~ creates, as said trapping area, an area interposed between a line constituting said boundary and a line obtained when said line (first occurring) is subjected to a parallel translation.


6. (*Currently Amended*) A trapping area creating apparatus for creating a trapping area in accordance with a trapping area creating method, said method comprising:

~~a division step of~~ dividing an image represented in form of a combination of polygons to which colors are applied[[,]] into a plurality of image areas by a straight line passing through vertexes of the polygons;

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U.S. APPLN. NO. 10/000,065  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q67493

~~determining if a decision step of deciding a propriety of trapping should be applied to for~~  
each pair of image areas adjacent to one another in at least one direction of two predetermined  
~~two~~ directions, with respect to the plurality of image areas wherein the image is divided; and  
~~a trapping area creating step of creating a band-shaped trapping area extending along a~~  
boundary of two image areas comprising ~~constituting~~ a pair of image areas determined ~~decided~~  
as being suitable for ~~a trapping in said decision step~~.

7. (*Currently Amended*) A trapping area creating program storage medium storing a  
trapping area creating program, which causes a computer to execute a trapping area creating  
method, said method comprising:

 ~~a division step of dividing an image represented in form of a combination of polygons to~~  
which colors are applied[[,]] into a plurality of image areas by a straight line passing through  
vertexes of the polygons;

~~determining if a decision step of deciding a propriety of trapping should be applied for~~  
each pair of image areas adjacent to one another in at least one direction of two predetermined  
~~two~~ directions, with respect to the plurality of image areas wherein the image is divided; and  
~~a trapping area creating step of creating a band-shaped trapping area extending along a~~  
boundary of two image areas comprising ~~constituting~~ a pair of image areas determined ~~decided~~  
as being suitable for ~~a trapping in said decision step~~,

when said trapping area creating program is incorporated into said computer.

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